

# HOUSE BILL No. 4996

June 26, 1991, Introduced by Rep. Ostling and referred to the Committee on Conservation, Recreation and Environment.

A bill to regulate the possession, transportation, sale, and breeding of domestic ferrets; to provide for the issuance of certain licenses; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2       (a) "Department" means the department of agriculture.

3       (b) "Domestic ferret" means a mustela furo.

4       (c) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation,  
5 association, governmental entity, or any other legal entity.

6       Sec. 2. (1) A person shall not possess a domestic ferret  
7 unless the person has a permit issued under this act or except as  
8 otherwise provided in subsection (2).



1 (2) A person may possess a domestic ferret as a pet without  
2 a permit issued under this act if all of the following conditions  
3 are met:

4 (a) The domestic ferret is neutered on or before it is 7  
5 months of age.

6 (b) The domestic ferret is surgically descented.

7 (c) The domestic ferret is inoculated as required by the  
8 department.

9 (d) The owner of a domestic ferret possesses inoculation  
10 records for each domestic ferret he or she possesses.

11 (e) The owner is in compliance with this act and any rules  
12 promulgated under this act.

13 Sec. 3. (1) A person possessing 1 or more domestic ferrets  
14 that are capable of reproducing shall obtain a breeder's permit  
15 from the department prior to taking possession of the domestic  
16 ferret, if feasible, or within 30 days after taking possession if  
17 obtaining a breeder's permit prior to possession is not  
18 feasible. The cost of a breeder's permit is as follows:

19 (a) Classification A, 1 to 10 breeding age male or female  
20 domestic ferrets, \$25.00.

21 (b) Classification B, 11 to 100 breeding age male or female  
22 domestic ferrets, \$250.00.

23 (c) Classification C, 101 or more breeding age male or  
24 female domestic ferrets, \$1,000.00.

25 (2) A breeder's permit shall be renewed every 5 years from  
26 the issuance of the original permit or within 30 days after  
27 obtaining a new classification under this subsection. If a



1 classification change occurs prior to the 5-year renewal, the  
2 5-year renewal for a classification change occurs from the incep-  
3 tion of the new classification.

4 (3) After a breeder's permit is issued under this section, a  
5 refund of the breeder's permit fee shall not be made by the  
6 department unless the breeder's permit application is denied by  
7 the department.

8 (4) Domestic ferret breeding facilities shall be open for  
9 inspection by the department at any time.

10 (5) Domestic ferret breeding facilities shall be in compli-  
11 ance with minimum standards established by the department in  
12 rules. The department shall promulgate rules pursuant to the  
13 administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public  
14 Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan  
15 Compiled Laws, establishing minimum standards for domestic ferret  
16 breeding facilities.

17 Sec. 4. (1) A person possessing 1 or more domestic ferrets  
18 that are capable of reproducing shall possess inoculation records  
19 for each domestic ferret.

20 (2) Domestic ferrets that are capable of breeding that are  
21 possessed outside of the confines of the owner's home shall be  
22 secured on a leash or in a cage.

23 Sec. 5. (1) A person who sells domestic ferrets shall hold  
24 a valid retailer's permit issued by the department. The fee for  
25 a retailer's permit is \$50.00.



1 (2) A person who sells domestic ferrets shall possess a  
2 valid retailer's permit prior to selling or contracting for the  
3 sale of a domestic ferret.

4 (3) A retailer's permit is renewable every 5 years from the  
5 date of issuance of the applicant's original permit.

6 (4) After a retailer's permit is issued under this section,  
7 a refund of the retailer's permit fee shall not be made by the  
8 department unless the retailer's permit application is denied by  
9 the department.

10 Sec. 6. If a domestic ferret is sold, the retailer shall  
11 provide to the purchaser of the domestic ferret all of the  
12 following:

13 (a) Evidence of neutering and surgical descenting.

14 (b) A health certificate that includes, but is not limited  
15 to, the identity of the original breeder and the inoculation his-  
16 tory of the domestic ferret.

17 (c) A 1-page information sheet providing nutritional, han-  
18 dling, care, feeding, and information regarding any additional  
19 health care needs of the domestic ferret.

20 (d) A signed and dated statement that the information  
21 required under subdivision (c) was provided as required in this  
22 section.

23 Sec. 7. (1) A person who violates this act is guilty of a  
24 misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90  
25 days, or a fine of not less than \$250.00 or more than \$500.00, or  
26 both, and the costs of prosecution.



1       (2) In addition to the penalty provided in subsection (1),  
2 the court shall order that a domestic ferret possessed or  
3 transported in violation of this act be confiscated and disposed  
4 of in a manner approved by the director of the department of nat-  
5 ural resources.

6       Sec. 8. Act No. 277 of the Public Acts of 1927, being  
7 sections 317.151 to 317.152 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is  
8 repealed.